

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO AGRICOLA BISCARI FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leonardo Agricola Biscari of Independence, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 865, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Leonardo will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 12, 2004, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, MO.

Leonardo has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leonardo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leonardo Agricola Biscari for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Hispanic Recognitions Awards Committee Incorporated in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts will have its annual ceremony, giving awards to a number of individuals and organizations. The recipients of these awards, to be presented at 5 p.m. at New Bedford High School on September 16, have distinguished themselves by their dedication and energy on behalf of the Hispanic community in our area, and on behalf of the community as a whole. I congratulate Emilio E. Cruz for the work he has done in making this possible, and I wish to join Mr. Cruz and others in recognizing the important community service performed by these recipients.

The list of awards and those receiving them is as follows: Community Organization Award 2004—Catholic Social Services; Cultural Achievement Award 2004—Johnny Arellano; Youth Award 2004—Chayrel Adams; Health Awards 2004—Marta Gonzalez; Education Award 2004—Sara Rodriguez; Public Safety Award 2004—Jose A. Perez; Latino Organization Award 2004—Association Maya Kiche USA, Inc.; Community Service/Leadership Award 2004—Reverend Abraham Torres; The Rising Star Award 2004—Marilyn Vega.

RECOGNIZING JEREMIAH COOMES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Coomes of Smithville, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremiah will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 19, 2004 at River of Life Church in Kansas City, MO.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Coomes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, three years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we solemnly remember those who risked their lives, those whose lives were lost and those they left behind.

America changed forever that day. Some called 9-11 America's wake up call.

The actions of first responders and everyday citizens give true meaning to the word hero. I applaud the resolution in the House today for honoring their service and the memories of those no longer with us.

But sadly, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that this resolution is flawed. While it rightfully honors the victims and heroes of September 11, it misleadingly connects the invasion of Iraq with the war on terrorism. Iraq did not start the U.S. global war on terrorism—Osama bin Laden did.

Despite that fact, after only four months of hunting for bin Laden, the U.S. began redirecting military and intelligence personnel from his pursuit in Afghanistan to preparing for war with Iraq.

The President then declared in a press conference that, "I don't know where [bin Laden]

is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him . . . I truly am not that concerned about him."

The President was clearly at odds with his terrorism advisers.

The FBI was concerned about him. It said that al-Qaeda remained the "number one concern."

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was concerned about him. He said America was still bin Laden's number 1 target.

Despite all this, what did the President do?

He shortchanged homeland security needs like port, rail and border security. He reduced law enforcement funding by over 30 percent. And he became less concerned with the man who started the war on terrorism and more concerned with Saddam Hussein—a man the 9-11 Commission determined had no operational connection to al Qaeda and who played no role in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Did this make America any safer? If so, redirecting resources from hunting the world's number one terrorist in order to invade Iraq might have made sense. But the fact is, the invasion in Iraq has made us less, not more, secure.

And because of that fact, we do ourselves as a country and the memories of those who were lost on September 11, 2001 a great disservice by misrepresenting the facts.

The invasion of Iraq did not deny terrorists a safe haven from which to operate, but rather it created one. In fact, because of poor planning and inadequate troop levels, U.S. forces in Iraq have withdrawn from unstable areas like Falluja, Ramadi and Samarra allowing them to become foreign terrorist safehavens. The low troop level has also prevented the U.S. from sealing off the borders and allowed foreign terrorists to enter Iraq at will.

More American Service members have been killed since the President announced that all major combat operations had ended than before that time. All told, over 1,000 soldiers have been killed, 7,000 wounded, and the rate at which American soldiers are being killed is rapidly increasing.

With all that said, the President still speaks of "taking the fight to the enemy" so that we don't have to fight him at home. But the Department of Homeland Security had to raise the terrorist alert level four times since the invasion of Iraq. And Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said, "[al Qaeda] is still determined to strike."

The Bush Administration would still lead us to believe that al Qaeda is no longer a threat because two thirds of its senior leadership have been captured or killed. But Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says "it's almost impossible to have metrics" that determine whether Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are being drained of support around the world. In fact some experts still put al Qaeda's end strength at close to 18,000.

Secretary Rumsfeld went on to say that the War on Terrorism is not "a military problem alone." In fact the overreliance on military

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

means to address the threat of terrorism might have done more to help al Qaeda recruit new members than it did to shrink the organization.

So what lessons have we learned three years later?

Iraq had nothing to do with 9–11; our invasion of Iraq made us more, not less vulnerable to terrorist attack; despite capturing and killing al Qaeda leaders, the organization remains operational; we shortchanged homeland security; and the President's attempt to make America safer by taking the fight to the enemy and invading Iraq has done nothing to deter bin Laden's desire to attack the U.S. again.

The administration has failed to adequately address the worldwide threat of terror. It has alienated much of the international community and failed to assemble an effective coalition. We honor the fallen today, but we must also refocus America's foreign and security policy.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the events of September 11, 2001—where we were, how we felt and how the America people came together as one Nation, undivided.

On the third anniversary of this tragedy, we again stand together to honor the victims and their loved ones, and to pay tribute to the women and men who continue to protect and defend our Nation at home and around the world.

As the American people move forward, we also know our lives have forever been changed. We understand the threat of terrorism is a reality that must be confronted and prevented. Yet, the spirit of this strong, proud Nation will overcome this threat and prevail against adversaries who attempt to harm us.

As we look to the future, we must not forget the past. We must understand how and why the events of 9/11 happened and we must remain determined to keep our homeland and our families safe and secure. And, forever, we must remember the 3,000 men and women who lost their lives on this tragic day—they are forever enshrined in the memory of our nation.

RECOGNIZING EXCELSIOR SPRINGS
FOOTBALL AND THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF TIGER STADIUM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Excelsior Springs Football Tigers, a team steeped in history with a promising future, thanks in part to the new Tiger Stadium, which is officially opening tonight, September 10, 2004.

Excelsior Springs football was first played about 1910 on "Old Lady Reed's Field" near Superior Street. In 1920, games were moved to Association Park, a location that later became the site of the old high school football field that officially became Roosevelt Field in 1938. The stone wall surrounding the field was built during the FDR era as a WPA project to provide area jobs after the Great Depression. In 1984, major renovations brought the field and track up to state regulations and new lighting was installed. In the '90s, however, the location started to become a problem: the field was plagued by repeated flooding from Fishing River, the field was now across town from the high school, and parking was more inadequate with each passing year. Early in the 2000s, the community passed a bond issue to build a Performing Arts Center, which opened in fall 2003, a new Career Center building, which will open in January 2005, and this Tiger Stadium, officially opening tonight September 10, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the people of Excelsior Springs on their new Tiger Stadium, and wishing the Tigers the best of luck in their new home.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday our nation will stop and reflect on the terrible events that occurred three years ago on that day. Each of us will remember in vivid detail where we were and what we were doing when we realized that America had come under murderous attack by cowardly terrorists. We will remember the way that firemen and policemen rushed into burning buildings to save lives. We will remember the heroism of the passengers and crew of Flight 93. We will remember the 3,000 friends, family and loved ones who died that day, and we will pay a debt of thanks to the men and women of our military who continue the fight against terrorism in far off places.

And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, will recall the spirit of bipartisanship that pervaded Washington in the days that followed—how Members of Congress stood together on the steps of the Capitol, singing "God Bless America" in one strong voice. As we consider the events of that day, I urge my colleagues to recapture that spirit and move quickly to adopt the reforms of the September 11th Commission. By doing so, we will improve our intelligence gathering capabilities, improve coordination between government agencies and strengthen Congressional oversight of the intelligence community.

As Americans stop to consider how much the world has changed in these three years, it is imperative that the Congress do all that it can to ensure that our government changes with the world. Every day that goes by without action to embrace the reforms of the Commission is a day that our ability to prevent another 9/11 is limited.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM M. RAINE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William M. Raine of Parkville, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. William will receive his Eagle Scout Award on September 12, 2004, at the Theodore Naish Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William M. Raine for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CORY HOGAN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cory Hogan of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cory has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cory has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cory Hogan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H. Res. 757, legislation commemorating the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against our country.

I remember September 11, 2001, vividly. The weather in our Nation's capital was warm